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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR IMPROVING THE SELECTIVITY OF A CATALYST AND A PROCESS FOR THE EPOXIDATION OF AN OLEFIN

(57) Abstract: A method for improving the selectivity of a supported highly selective epoxidation catalyst comprising silver in a quantity of at most 0.19 g per m<sup>2</sup> surface area of the support, which method comprises - contacting the catalyst, or a precursor of the catalyst comprising the silver in cationic form, with a feed comprising oxygen at a catalyst temperature above 250 °C for a duration of up to 150 hours, and - subsequently decreasing the catalyst temperature to a value of at most 250 °C; and a process for the epoxidation of an olefin, which process comprises - contacting a supported highly selective epoxidation catalyst comprising silver in a quantity of at most 0.19 g per m<sup>2</sup> surface area of the support, or a precursor of the catalyst comprising the silver in cationic form, with a feed comprising oxygen at a catalyst temperature above 250 °C for a duration of up to 150 hours, and - subsequently decreasing the catalyst temperature to a value of at most 250 °C and contacting the catalyst with the feed comprising the olefin and oxygen.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B01J37/08 B01J37/14 C07D301/10 B01J23/50 B01J23/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B01J C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96/04989 A (SCIENT DESIGN CO) 22 February 1996 (1996-02-22) claim 1	1-12
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X	EP 0 266 015 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 4 May 1988 (1988-05-04) claims page 14, line 15-19	1-12
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 2004/002972 A (WERMINK THIJS ;REKERS DOMINICUS MARIA (NL); TE RAA AREND JAN (NL);) 8 January 2004 (2004-01-08) claim C -----	1-12

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